

# Coachella Valley Unified School District



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*Dr. Edwin Gomez*

April 29, 2019

Dear Coachella Valley Unified School District Staff and Community,

We wanted to update you regarding the camera that was found at Saul Martinez in mid-March. The District does not condone the placement of cameras in classrooms without the express awareness and permission of the classroom teacher. After the discovery of the camera, an outside consultant, Nicole Miller & Associates, Inc., was hired to conduct a thorough and comprehensive investigation.

The investigator found that District Security obtained permission from a classroom teacher and elementary principal (which is consistent with the requirements of Education Code 51512) to temporarily place a hidden surveillance camera in one of our elementary schools in an effort to capture footage of suspects who previously broke into the classroom. The investigation revealed that the camera was mistakenly placed in a classroom at Saul Martinez instead of the classroom approved by the site principal and classroom teacher at another elementary school. This error was not discovered until the camera was found and reported by Saul Martinez students.

Of noteworthy importance, no footage of students or Saul Martinez staff was captured by the hidden surveillance camera. The District takes student and staff safety seriously and will continue to strive to ensure mistakes such as the one that occurred do not happen again.

Sincerely,

Edwin Gomez, Ed.D  
Superintendent of Schools

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*The Power of Community for Learning*